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## Preparing Visitors

### Requirements

- Provide safety instructions to all visitors before they enter the maze. Instructions can be verbal, written, or both. (527 CMR 1.00, s. 10.15.11.2.2)

### Recommendations

- Provide a map of the maze to visitors to use for quick exit if necessary.
- Give guests the ability to alert employees in case of emergency (e.g. give them a flag to carry in the maze).
- Provide flashlights if operating at dusk or after dark. Do not use gas-fueled lanterns, candles, or other open flames.
- Post the rules of the maze and safety measures at the entrance of the maze. Provide verbal safety instructions to visitors before they enter the maze.



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## What Emergency Responders Need to Know

- How to gain access to the site.
- Where the nearest map of the maze is.
- Where the entrances and exits to the maze are and the quickest way through maze.
- Who to contact in case of an emergency.
- Location of first aid kits.
- Closest source of water for fire suppression.

In an emergency  
call 911

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# Crop Maze Safety

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Guide for  
**Operators, Staff and Visitors**



Crop mazes can be fun for children and adults. Crop maze owners and operators must provide a safe and fun experience in order to keep customers coming back.

The primary danger at a crop maze is a medical or fire emergency for which staff are not prepared. However, owners and operators can take many preventive and precautionary measures to ensure that staff are prepared to handle emergencies.

This pamphlet provides an overview of the requirements for crop mazes contained in the State Fire Code, 527 CMR 1.00, s. 10.15.11 and includes additional recommendations for safety.



## Setup and Operations

### Requirements

- Maintain an elevated viewing platform above the level of the maze. Keep the platform staffed by an employee to look for potential emergencies and risks whenever visitors are in the maze. (527 CMR 1.00, s. 10.15.11.2.3.2)
- Have at least two supervisors present during operation. One must monitor operations from the elevated platform. (527 CMR 1.00, s. 10.15.11.2.3.1 & 10.15.11.2.3.2)
- Have a public address system available to assist in making announcements to visitors (e.g. bull horn or loud speaker). (527 CMR 1.00, s. 10.15.11.2.7.1)
- Limit visitors to no more than 200 people per acre in the maze. (527 CMR 1.00, s. 10.15.11.2.9)
- Ban all smoking on the premises. (527 CMR 1.00, s. 10.15.11.3.2)
- Do not allow open flame devices or equipment within the maze. (527 CMR 1.00, s. 10.15.11.3.1)
- Motorized vehicles must be parked at least 75 feet from the maze. (527 CMR 1.00, s. 10.15.11.2.5)
- Create a 20 ft. min. fuel break between the maze and surrounding land to prevent a fire from spreading into the maze. (527 CMR 1.00, s. 10.15.11.2.6)
- Provide the fire department the opportunity to walk through the maze and "preplan" in case of an actual emergency. (527 CMR 1.00, s. 10.15.11.2.4)

### Recommendations

- Make employees easily recognizable (uniforms) so visitors know whom to ask in case of an emergency.

- Have fire extinguishers readily available for emergency use.
- Maintain a service road around the outside of the maze so emergency vehicles can reach any point in the maze as quickly as possible.
- Conduct work-related tasks involving gasoline or possible sparks when visitors are not in the maze.

## Training Employees

### Requirements

- Advise employees on fire and life safety guidelines prior to assuming their duties. In an emergency, patrons look to staff for safety directions. (527 CMR 1.00, s. 10.15.11.2.1)
- Never block entrances or exits when visitors are in the maze. (527 CMR 1.00, s. 10.15.11.2.8)

### Recommendations

- Provide CPR training for employees.
- Practice evacuation methods with employees so they are prepared in case of an emergency.

Advise employees on fire and life safety before they work. In an emergency, patrons look to staff for safety directions.